

## Appendix 1: Search strategy

When searched: December 2016 and January 2017

### PubMed:

- (((("Infant, Newborn"[Mesh]) OR ( "Infant, Extremely Premature"[Mesh] OR "Infant, Premature"[Mesh] )) OR ( "Infant, Low Birth Weight"[Mesh] OR "Infant, Extremely Low Birth Weight"[Mesh] OR "Infant, Very Low Birth Weight"[Mesh] )) AND "Probiotics"[Majr]: **716**
- (((("Infant, Extremely Premature"[Mesh] OR "Infant, Extremely Low Birth Weight"[Mesh] OR "Infant, Very Low Birth Weight"[Mesh] OR "Infant, Small for Gestational Age"[Mesh] OR "Infant, Premature, Diseases"[Mesh] OR "Infant, Premature"[Mesh] OR "Infant, Newborn, Diseases"[Mesh] OR "Infant, Newborn"[Mesh] OR "Infant, Low Birth Weight"[Mesh])) AND (((("Bifidobacterium"[Mesh]) OR "Lactobacillus"[Mesh]) OR "Saccharomyces"[Mesh]): **774**
- probiotics and preterm infants: **350**
- probiotics and low birth weight infants: **146**
- probiotics and sepsis:**321**
- probiotics and ELGAN(extremely low gestational age) infants: **7**
- probiotics and Necrotizing enterocolitis: **381**

**EMBASE:** (probiotics.mp. or probiotic agent)/AND (preterm infant.mp. OR prematurity/low birth weight infant.mp. OR low birth weight/ very low birth weight infant.mp. OR very low birth weight/extremely low birth weight infant.mp. OR extremely low birth weight/small for gestational age.mp. OR small for date infant OR ELGAN.mp OR extremely low gestational age neonate.mp): **711**

**CINAHL:** 113

**Cochrane:** 84 trials

**who.int /ictrp (WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform): 26, Relevant: 17, Recruiting: 4**  
(2 of the relevant)

**PAS 2000-2014:** 187 (probiotics), 68 (Bifidobacteria), 137 (Lactobacillus/ Lactobacilli), Saccharomyces (15)

**PAS 2015:** 17 (probiotics), 6 (Bifidobacteria), 4 (Lactobacillus/ Lactobacilli), Saccharomyces (2)

**Grey literature search:** Using term “probiotics and preterm infants”

- **Ntis.gov/:** 42, Relevant: 0; **Opengrey.eu/:** 2, Relevant: 0; **Trove.nla.gov.au:** 495, Duplicates:253, Not relevant:242